

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

This Amendment amends claims 46 and 48, and cancels claims 45 and 47. Thus, upon entry, claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27, 31-39, 46, and 48 will be pending in this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27, 31-39, and 45-48. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 45 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,891,855 to Bruckman ("Bruckman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,359 to Roy et al. ("Roy"). These claims have been canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 46 and 48 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. The above amendment places these claims in independent form. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. However, Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuing application, as well as to make additional arguments regarding distinctions between the claims and the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Thus, Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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